Sports

Dopfel and the big leagues

By Sandy Yulke

MIT has finally made the big league, in baseball that is. Al Dopfel, who has accrued many other honors in the last few months, has become the first MIT baseball player to be signed by a major league team. Al was the number three draft choice of the California Angels this spring, and has been playing baseball this summer with their Shreveport, Louisiana Double A farm club.

Dopfel has been keeping Pete Close, the Sports Information Director here at MIT, informed of what he has been doing this summer in a series of very funny letters, which give a great deal of insight into the differences between the minor and major leagues.

According to Dopfel

"I'm finally situated in Shreveport and it's really different. Down here, I've got to worry about all the poisonous snakes and vermin. Last week... the center fielder killed five sand hills (sic). After the game a five inch beetle landed on my shoulder. Down here it's man against the elements.

"Our home field is beautiful, though it's located in the worst section of town. Consequently, attendance is really low (On one night they got 360. Hopefully on beer night we'll draw more."

Dopfel got into the starting rotation and had a very good record (pitching two shutouts and two incomplete games he compiled the following record: 2-1, 1.40 ERA, 25 innings, 22 strike-outs, 16 hits and 15 walks) until he ran into what he described as "a black day in my career."

"What happened was that he was literally knocked out of the game when a ball hit him on the head. For those unfamiliar with Dopfel's record here at MIT, the following is a short recap: 1972 Captain and Most Valuable Player; 1972 Greater Boston League All Star Pitcher; 1972 Greater Boston League Most Valuable Player; 1972 All New England; 1972 NCAA Strike-Out Leader (15.82 s/o/game); NCAA New England Regional No. One Player; Sporting News All American Honorable Mention; and Sports Illustrated "Face in the Crowd."

Dopfel majored in management here at MIT and signed with the Angels three weeks after graduating from MIT.

Today, for the first time, all freshmen, including women, will have a vested interest in attending the Athletics Midway in the Armory between 3 and 6 p.m. this afternoon of '76 is the first in which women will also be required to fulfill the eight points of physical education credit that has been required of the male students since anyone can remember.

There are a great many good reasons for the requirement to be extended to women. The first and most important reason is that a physical education requirement is a good thing, especially at MIT, where the majority of students think that sports are only for less intelligent people – hence the idea of the "dumb jock." This is certainly not true, not only as sports fans, but also as good for the maintenance of one's body, they are good for the maintenance of one's mind as well. There are numerous studies, which can be cited, that have demonstrated this quite well, by showing that people seem to perform better in the classroom if they spend part of their day engaged in some kind of athletic activity.

Another reason that the requirement is good is that sports at MIT are not like sports in high school, and that once people discover this, many of them are not only glad to fulfill their requirement, but take subjects beyond it as well. The physical education instructors at MIT are not interested in making you into the world's greatest athlete, in fact they do not emphasize competition at all.

The reason that women were previously excluded from the athletic requirement is that the athletic department did not have sufficient facilities for women to participate in the physical education program on an equal basis, and in typical vicious circle manner, they did not have the facilities because there was no requirement. Both these problems have now been solved, and in the women's locker room is scheduled for completion later this month (see The Tech summer issue, page 16). Also, for the first time, a woman has been made Coordinator of Women's Athletics and she will not be the only woman on the staff of the athletic department. There will even be a women-only course offered this year; the only courses that women are not allowed to take are weightlifting, wrestling and football.

Women's athletics have come a long way in the last few years, for it was only a few years ago that women were permitted to take any of the physical education courses. There is also now a women's varsity team, sailing, and they won the national championship last year. The women's crew team, which has done quite well recently, may become a varsity sport sometime this year. There are also women's intercollegiate teams in basketball, tennis, swimming, fencing and field hockey.

DO YOU KNOW THAT.

You can get up to $25,000 life insurance protection at less than $100 per year net cost... (average NET payment for age 24 for 20 years based on 1972 dividend scale)

MIT Eastgate Apts—closest store to East Campus Dorms

MIT Westgate Apts—closest store to West Campus Dorms

Open to All of the MIT Community

Hours: 1 pm to 7 pm; Mon. thru Sat.